

## **APPENDIX B: METHODOLOGY**

**Participation in Outdoor Recreational Activities** – In 2007, the Division of Parks and Recreation contracted with the US Forest Service Southeast Experiment Station to analyze the responses from North Carolinians to the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE). The NSRE is continues a series of national recreation participation surveys conducted about every five years since 1965. The current version was conducted from 2002-2007 via random-digit telephone dialing and includes over 90,000 responses across the United States. The report about recreation participation in North Carolina contains the results of over 3,000 responses from state residents. The data and analysis by research staff of the USFS Southeast Experiment Station represents the most statistically accurate information about recreation participation in North Carolina reported in a statewide recreation plan.

**Population Growth and Density** – The information about county population counts and estimates is taken from the North Carolina State Data Center's web page. The county population figures for 2000, 2010, 2020 and 2010 are for April of those years. The population densities and growth are also from the State Data Center web pages. The state rankings are calculated using the information provided.

**Public Recreational Acreage and Facility Inventory** –The data collection process for local governments began with the results of the inventory of local governments conducted for the 2003-2008 SCORP. The Division of Parks and Recreation returned the results of that inventory to each of over 300 county and municipal governments via email in the Spring 2008 along with two follow-up requests to non-respondents. Each local government was asked to update inventory records to reflect the current recreational acreage and facilities that they managed for public recreation.

For state and federal agencies, the Division of Parks and Recreation used the data layers containing property boundaries supplied by each agency to the state's geographic information system (GIS). The property information was compared to the county-boundary data layer to calculate the acreage by county for each agency.

**Issues Related to Land and Water Conservation** –The 2006 General Assembly established a Joint Legislative Commission on Land and Water Conservation to:

- collect information about techniques and management tools to protect land and water resources,
- recommend ways to address the funding needs,
- and hold three public meetings across the state.

The commission met five times and held three public meetings across the state and submitted its report in January 2007. The issues identified the commission are contained in Chapter 1 of this document. The results of the public meetings, attended by over 750 people including 189 people who spoke, are included in the commission's report and are also presented in Appendix C.